

STATOTHR

19 August 1953



There is not too much I can say about the possibility of employment as an attorney with this Agency upon your graduation next June, but I am glad to give you some thoughts in this connection.

It is my personal feeling, which I normally express to applicants just out of law school, that for their own good they would do better to try private practice for the first few years after graduation. After trying both recent graduates and experienced lawyers, I have found that three or four years of private practice normally give a type of training which cannot be precisely reproduced in Government practice and which tends to fix in his mind the practical application of the theory learned in law school. This is of benefit to me and to the official work of my Office, and I think it improves the individual's opportunity for and rate of advancement. This is not a hard and fast rule, and I am perfectly willing to vary it under appropriate circumstances.

As for the work of the Office, I can say that it is extremely varied, covering at one time or another almost all phases of the law. This, of course, is one of its prime points of interest. We do touch on matters of international and foreign law, but not to the extent that any member of the staff is likely to become an expert therein. We do not, for instance, do nearly as much international law as an attorney in the Office of the Legal Adviser, Department of State.

If in the light of the above you are still interested, I would be glad to see you before you go back to Harvard or during one of the vacations, or I could arrange to have application forms sent to you. As you know, a security clearance is required and this takes a considerable period of time.

Very truly yours,

151
Lawrence R. Houston